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September Journal Jumpstarts

A Month of Creative Writing Prompts

TEACHER'S WORLD
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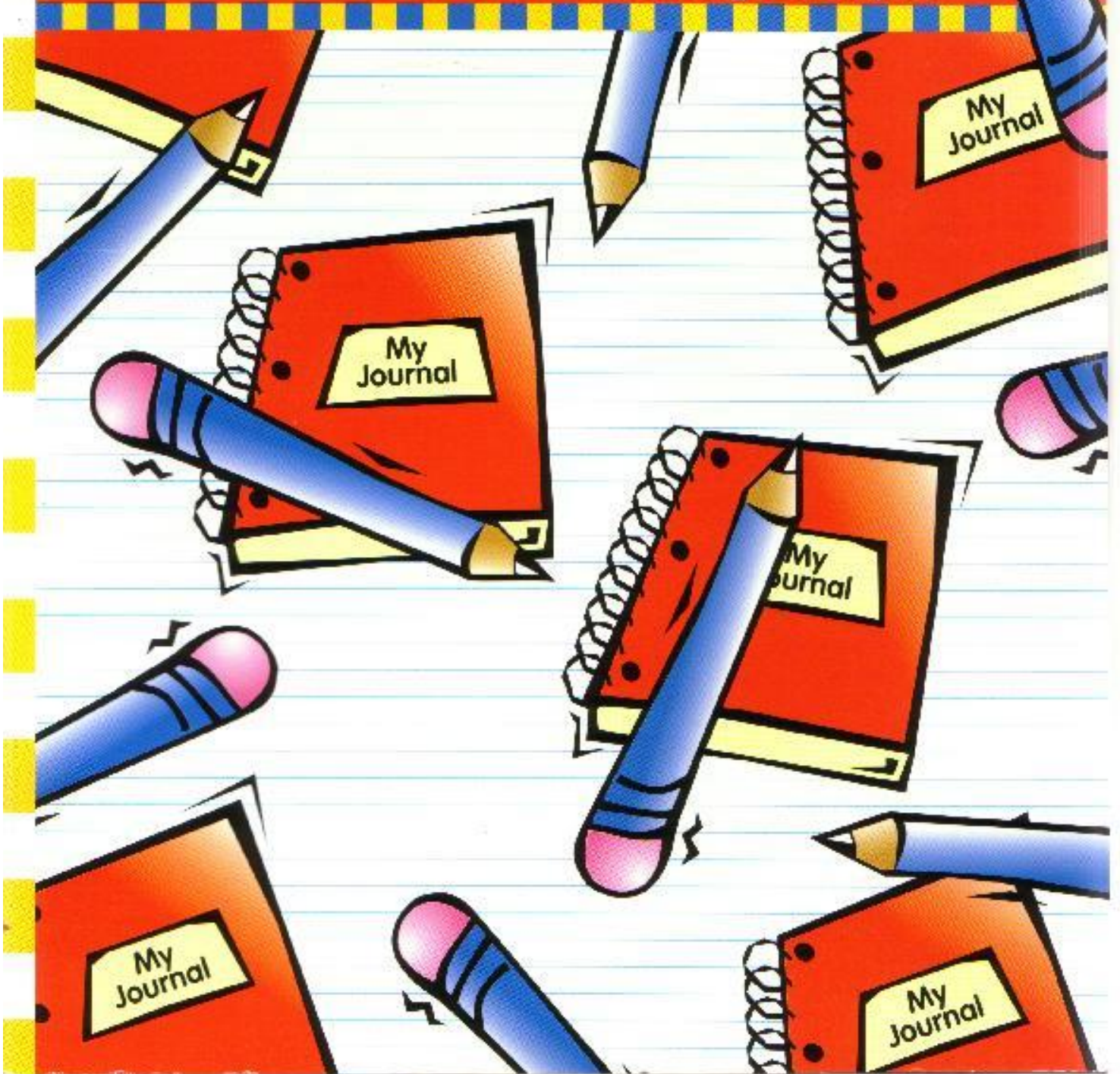


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Introduction

An empty journal is filled with infinite possibilities.

Writing regularly in a journal helps us to develop our imaginations, encourages us to express our thoughts, feelings, and dreams, and provides a way to communicate experiences in words and pictures. Many students feel frustrated when asked to keep a journal. They may not be sure of what to write, or they may be intimidated by a blank sheet of paper. Even professional writers occasionally face "writer's block." The Journal Jumpstarts series provides ideas and suggestions for daily journal entries. Each book contains 29 jumpstarts. You could give each student a photocopy of the same page or provide a variety of pages and allow students to choose their own topics. You may have students who will be able to sit and write without jumpstarts. At times students may prefer to express their thoughts through drawings or with a combination of drawings and writing. Be encouraging!

Through making regular entries in journals, students become more observant of themselves and the world around them. Journal writing on a regular basis strengthens students' attention spans and abilities to focus. Keeping journals promotes self-esteem because students are doing something for themselves—not for grades or in competition with others. A journal can become an essential friend, a confidante in times of personal crisis.

Encourage students to get into the journal habit by setting aside writing time every day at about the same time, such as first thing in the morning or shortly before lunch. Share their journal time by writing in your own journal. What better way to encourage a good habit than by example?

Note: Assure students that what they write is confidential. Provide a safe, secure place for students to store their journals. Respect their privacy, as you would expect your privacy to be respected—read their journals by invitation only.



Name _____

Date _____

Personal Best

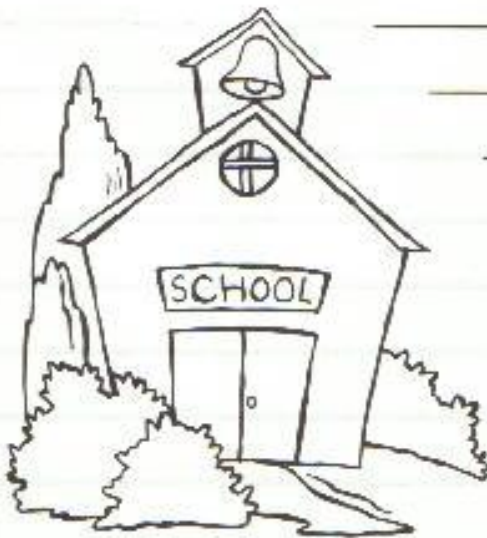
The ten best things about me are . . .



Date _____

Goals

My three most important goals for this school year are . . .

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.[illegible]

Name _____

Date _____

My Schedule

You may have a busy schedule—a list of things that you do at the same time every day or week. Maybe you take out the trash on Tuesday nights or practice baseball on Saturday mornings. You probably go to school every weekday morning. Describe your schedule. Is there anything you'd like to change about it? Why or why not?



Date _____

Responsibilities

You may have been put in charge of certain things at home or school, like washing dishes, feeding a pet, or keeping your desk tidy. These are responsibilities. What are your responsibilities? How do you feel about them?

A cartoon illustration of a young boy with dark hair, wearing overalls, pushing a large, striped trash can. The trash can has vertical ridges and a lid with a small handle. The boy is smiling and looking towards the trash can. The background is a white sheet of lined paper with horizontal ruling lines.

Date _____

What do you wish for when you see the first star? Write about why your wish is important to you.

[illegible]

Date _____



A Relative

Write about a member of your family and explain why that person is unique and special to you.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Name _____

Date _____

Family Fun

Write about something that you and your family enjoy doing together.



Name _____ Date _____

Favorite Toy

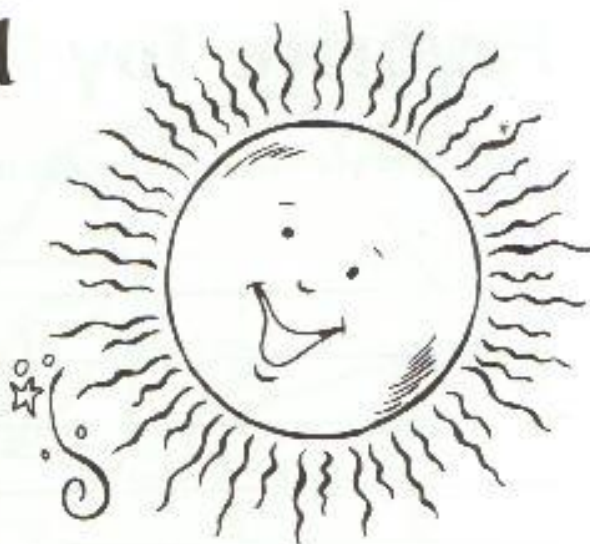
Do you have a favorite toy? Describe it and tell why you like it the best.



Name _____ Date _____

Someone Special

Who would you most like to meet? Explain why you would like to meet him or her.



Date _____

My Teacher Appreciates Me



Write a nice thing that your teacher this year or your teacher last year said to you. Write about how that made you feel.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper appears to be from a notebook or a standard sheet of stationery. There is no handwriting or other markings on the page.

Name _____

Date _____

Making New Friends

Being in school is a great opportunity to make new friends. Write about a new friend that you've made this school year. Explain why you like this person. What kinds of things could you do together?



Date _____

A cartoon illustration of a smiling bee. The bee has a round head with two antennae, a friendly smile, and large, rounded wings. Its body is covered in horizontal stripes. The drawing is simple and uses black outlines on a white background.

If you could be a kind of insect, which kind would you like to be? Describe what you think it would be like to be that kind of insect.

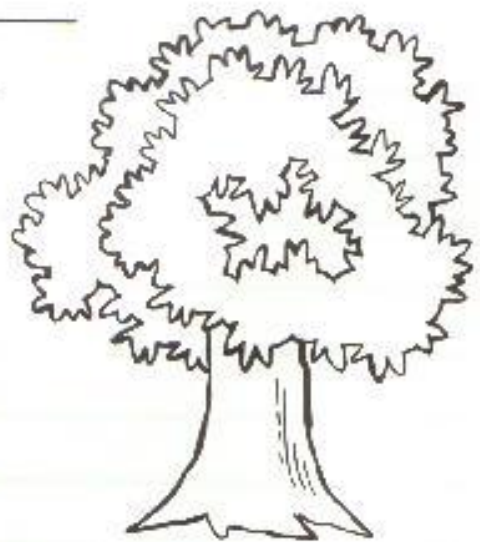
This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. In the top right corner, there is a small, simple line drawing of a person's head and shoulders, facing left. The drawing is minimalist, with no facial features other than the outline of the head and hair. The rest of the page is blank, with no text or other markings.

Name

Date _____

Treetop View

Imagine you are a tree. You're tall and majestic. You've been watching what goes on around you for a long, long time. Write observations and thoughts from your point of view as a tree.

A simple line drawing of a tree is located in the bottom right corner of the page. The tree has a thick, slightly flared trunk and a large, rounded canopy with a jagged, leafy edge. The rest of the page is filled with horizontal lines for writing.

Name _____ Date _____



Anthem

Write a song or poem that could be used as an anthem for your school or your community.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Name _____ Date _____

Tomorrow

Write about three things that would make you happy if they happened tomorrow.



Holiday Inventor

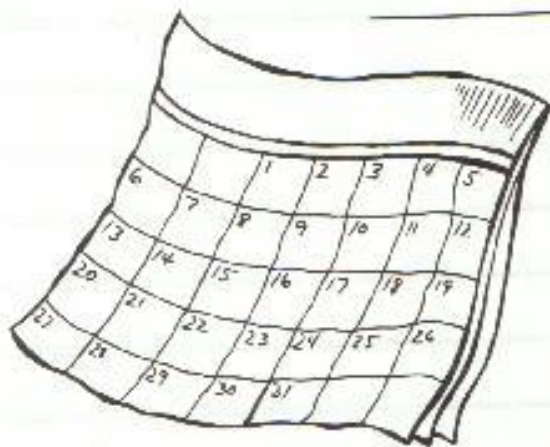


Invent a new holiday for September. Explain when it would take place, what you would call it, why people would like it, and how people would celebrate.

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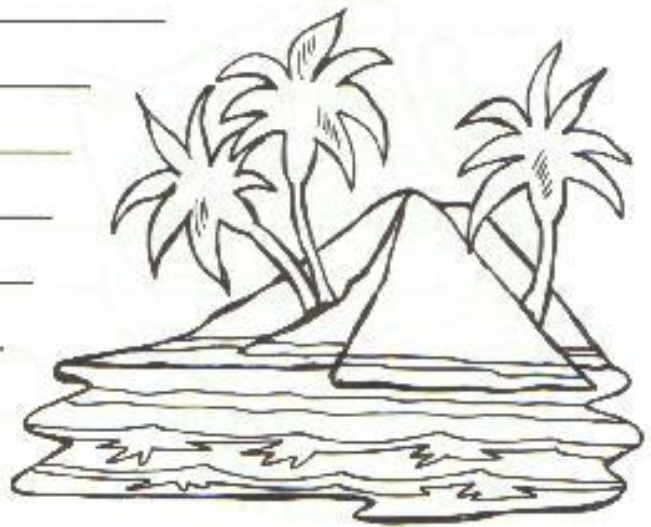
Date _____

What do you think you will be like when you go to high school? You will be about thirteen or fourteen years old. Write about how you might look and what might interest you.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Shipwrecked

A line drawing of a tropical island scene. In the foreground, there are stylized waves. Behind them, a large pyramid stands on a small island. To the left of the pyramid are two palm trees, and to the right is one palm tree. The background is a simple horizon line.

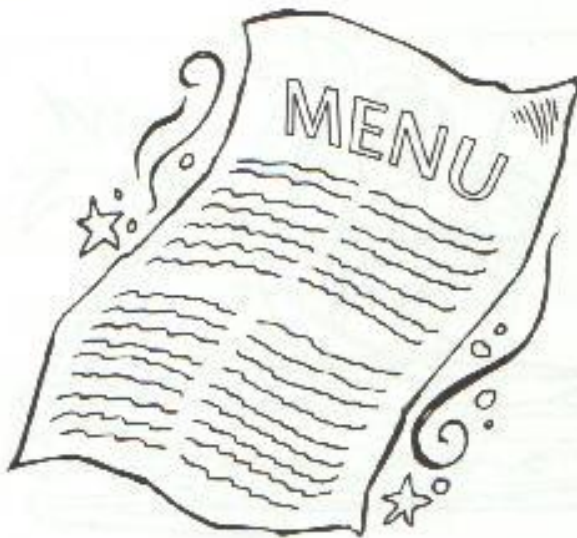


Name _____

Date _____

What's for Breakfast?

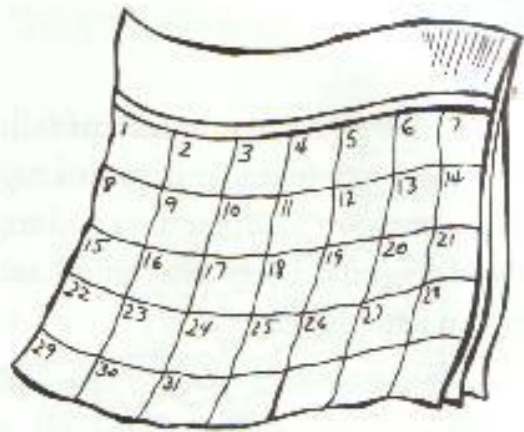
If you could have anything that you wanted for breakfast, what would you eat? Write about the tastes, textures, and smells of the foods that you enjoy most for breakfast.

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Date _____

Sunday, Sunday

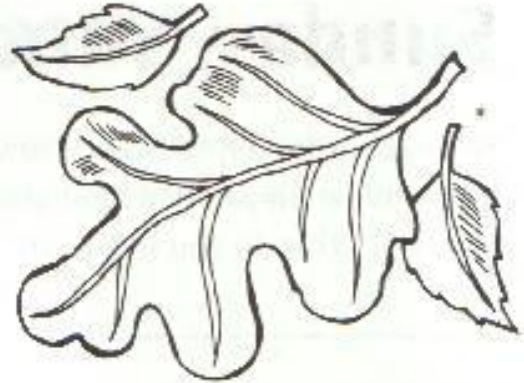
Write about Sundays at school or at home. What do you like most about Sundays? What do you like least?

[illegible]

Name _____ Date _____

Fall

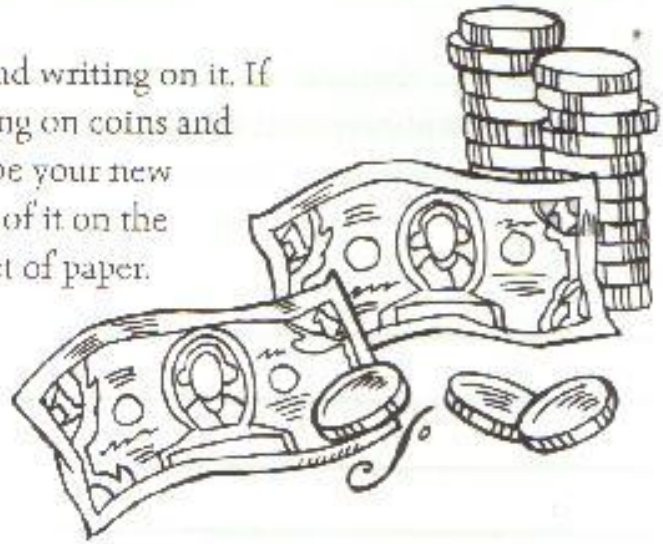
September is the first month of fall. Describe what makes September days and nights different from summer days and nights. What do you do, see, hear, smell, taste, and feel in September?



Name _____ Date _____

Funny Money

The money that we use has pictures and writing on it. If you could put new pictures and writing on coins and bills, what would you choose? Describe your new money with words and draw pictures of it on the back of this page or on a separate sheet of paper.



Name _____

Date: _____

A simple line drawing of a vintage television set. The screen displays a smiling face with large eyes and a wide grin. The TV has a control panel on the right side with several buttons and knobs. It is tilted slightly to the right.



Date _____



School

Write about what you like best and least about your school. If you could change one thing about your school, what would it be? Why?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Class Rules

[illegible]

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Name _____ Date _____

Six Days a Week

Write about how you would feel if you went to school six days a week, instead of five. Would you like it? Why or why not?



School Clothes



Name _____ Date _____

Writing Sequels

What's the best book that you ever read? Pretend that you are going to write more of the story in another chapter or another book. What would happen in the new part?



Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple horizontal lines for writing.

Name _____ Date _____

Secret Staircase

Imagine that you find a secret staircase at your school. Where does it go? Why is it hidden? What happens when you use the stairs?

A line drawing of a schoolhouse is located in the bottom left corner of the page. The schoolhouse has a gabled roof with a bell tower on top containing a bell. Below the bell tower is a small circular window with a cross. A sign above the double doors reads "SCHOOL". A path leads to the entrance, and there are bushes and a tall tree to the left. The rest of the page is filled with horizontal ruling lines.